AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please amend claims 1, 11, and 18 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A scale comprising:

a base supportable on a surface;

a frame supported by the base;

a measuring mechanism supported by the base and operable to measure a characteristic of an object, the measuring mechanism including a measuring platform on which the object is supportable and a ~~spring~~ damper assembly to resist movement of the platform;

an indicator supported by the frame, the indicator being operable to provide feedback to a user relating to a measured characteristic of the object;

a housing supported by and removable from the base, the housing cooperating with the base to cover the ~~spring~~ damper assembly; and

a connecting assembly operable to removably connect the housing to the base;

wherein the frame is configured to support the measuring ~~mechanism~~ platform, the damper assembly, and the indicator such that the scale is operable with the housing removed from the base.

2. (Previously Presented) The scale of Claim 1, wherein the frame is fixed to the base, and wherein the measuring mechanism and the indicator are connected to the frame or the base as a unit.

3. (Original) The scale of Claim 2, wherein the housing is removable from the unit.

4. (Original) The scale of Claim 1, wherein the platform is movable relative to the base to measure the characteristic of the object.

5. (Original) The scale of Claim 1, wherein the scale has a front, a rear, a bottom, a first side and a second side, wherein the indicator provides at least a portion of the front, wherein the base provides at least a portion of the bottom, and wherein the housing provides at least a portion of the rear, the first side and the second side.

6. (Original) The scale of Claim 5, wherein the housing has a rear surface and a forward surface extending forwardly of the rear surface, the forward surface extending from a first edge on the first side to a second edge on the second side, the forward surface being contoured to provide a smooth transition from the first side to the second side.

7. (Original) The scale of Claim 1, wherein the connecting assembly includes a first connecting member provided by the base and a second connecting member being engageable to releasably connect the housing to the base.

8. (Original) The scale of Claim 7, wherein the first connecting member includes a fastener, wherein the second connecting member includes a recess defined by a portion of the housing, the fastener being engageable in the recess to releasably connect the housing to the base.

9. (Original) The scale of Claim 1, wherein the housing is formed of a dishwasher safe material.

10. (Original) The scale of Claim 1, wherein the base, the measuring mechanism and the indicator are formed at least partially of a dishwasher safe material.

11. (Currently Amended) A scale comprising:

a base supportable on a surface;

a frame supported by the base;

a measuring mechanism supported by the base and operable to measure a characteristic of an object, the measuring mechanism including a measuring platform on which the object is supportable;

an indicator supported by the frame, the indicator being operable to provide feedback to a user relating to a measured characteristic of the object;

a resistance device coupled to the indicator or the measuring mechanism and operable to resist oscillation of the indicator during a measurement or after a measurement; and

a housing supported by and removable from the base, the housing cooperating with the base to cover the resistance device;

wherein the frame is configured to support the measuring ~~mechanism~~ platform, the indicator, and the resistance device such that the scale is operable with the housing removed from the base.

12. (Original) The scale of Claim 11, wherein the resistance device provides friction resisting movement of the indicator.

13. (Original) The scale of Claim 11, wherein the resistance device provides inertia resisting movement of the indicator.

14. (Original) The scale of Claim 11, wherein the resistance device includes a gear coupled to the indicator and operable to resist movement of the indicator.

15. (Previously Presented) The scale of Claim 14, wherein the indicator includes a pointer pivotably supported by the frame and a rack and pinion assembly connected between the platform and the pointer and operable to communicate movement of the platform to the pointer, the damping gear being in communication with the rack and pinion assembly.

16. (Original) The scale of Claim 15, wherein the rack and pinion assembly includes a pinion connected to the pointer for pivoting movement with the pointer and a rack connected to the platform for movement with the platform.

17. (Original) The scale of Claim 11, wherein the resistance device is operable to resist oscillation of the indicator during a measurement and does not operate to resist oscillation of the indicator after a measurement.

18. (Currently Amended) A scale comprising:

a base supportable on a surface;

a frame supported by the base;

a measuring mechanism supported by the base and operable to measure a characteristic of an object, the measuring mechanism including a measuring platform on which the object is supportable;

an indicator supported by the frame, the indicator being operable to provide feedback to a user relating to a measured characteristic of the object;

a cylinder supported by the frame; and

a piston connected to the platform for movement with the platform, the piston engaging the cylinder to provide a piston and cylinder assembly, the piston and cylinder assembly being operable to resist movement of the platform during a measurement or after a measurement; and

a housing supported by and removable from the base, the housing cooperating with the base to cover the piston and cylinder assembly;

wherein the frame is configured to support the measuring ~~mechanism~~ platform, the indicator, and the piston and cylinder assembly such that the scale is operable with the housing removed from the base.

19. (Original) The scale of Claim 18, wherein the cylinder defines a chamber, and wherein the scale further comprises a control mechanism operable to control a flow of fluid from the chamber during movement of the piston relative to the cylinder.

20. (Original) The scale of Claim 19, wherein the control mechanism includes an opening defined by the cylinder and communicating with the chamber and a control member operable to control the size of the opening.

21. (Original) The scale of Claim 20, wherein the control mechanism includes a control actuator engageable by a user to control the size of the opening.

22. (Original) The scale of Claim 18, wherein the cylinder defines a chamber, and wherein the scale further comprises a drain operable to remove contaminants from the chamber.

23-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously Presented) The scale of Claim 18, wherein the piston includes a head engageable in the cylinder and a plunger connected between the head and the platform, and wherein the head is formed of graphite and the cylinder is formed of glass.

28. (Previously Presented) The scale of Claim 1, wherein a portion of the measuring mechanism covered by the housing is formed of a dishwasher safe material.

29. (Previously Presented) The scale of Claim 11, wherein the resistance device includes a damper assembly.

30. (Previously Presented) A scale comprising:

a housing supportable on a surface;

a measuring mechanism supported by the housing and operable to measure a characteristic of an object, the measuring mechanism including a measuring platform on which the object is supportable;

an indicator supported by the housing, the indicator being operable to provide feedback to a user relating to a measured characteristic of the object, the indicator being movable relative to the housing to provide the feedback; and

a resistance device coupled to at least one of the indicator and the measuring mechanism and operable to resist oscillation of the indicator at least one of during a measurement and after a measurement;

wherein the resistance device includes a gear coupled to the indicator and operable to resist movement of the indicator.

31. (Previously Presented) The scale of Claim 30, wherein the indicator includes a pointer pivotably supported by the housing and a rack and pinion assembly connected between the platform and the pointer and operable to communicate movement of the platform to the pointer, the damping gear being in communication with the rack and pinion assembly.

32. (Previously Presented) The scale of Claim 31, wherein the rack and pinion assembly includes a pinion connected to the pointer for pivoting movement with the pointer and a rack connected to the platform for movement with the platform.